

pitality while we were making use of their home as a petrel field laboratory. Mr R. D. Royce, Officer-in-Charge, Botany Branch, Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, kindly made the plant identifications for us. Dr R. W. George and Dr Glen M. Storr of the Western Australian Museum, identified a crustacean regurgitate and some skink specimens from Eclipse Island. Mr Frank Knight drew the figures.

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Further Record of *Sminthopsis longicaudata* (Marsupialia, Dasyuridae).—On March 16, 1975, while on a Department of Fisheries and Wildlife survey, we obtained a female Long-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata* Spencer). It was collected at 26°51'S, 126°23'E in the proposed 1 050 000 ha Bakcr Lake Nature Reserve, in the Gibson Desert, southwest of Warburton, Western Australia.

The animal was flushed from a spinifex tussock at late dusk. The collecting site was on a laterite plateau supporting a low hummock grassland of *Triodia* sp. and *Plectrachne* sp. with occasional emergent *Hakea lorea* and *Acacia* sp. The soil was a shallow sandy gravel. About 10 m away was a laterite breakaway below which was a tall shrubland of *Acacia anenra* (Mulga) and *A. kempeana*.

Only four specimens have previously been reported. One of these is labelled only "Central Australia" (holotype, National Museum of Victoria, C7803) and the others all come from the Pilbara of Western Australia (W. D. L. Ride, *A Guide to the Native Mammals of Australia*, 1970, p. 201).

Ride does not provide any habitat information although H. J. Frith (*Wildlife Conservation*, 1973, p. 88) includes the species among "... mammals whose main habitats are woodlands do also live in grasslands where there are no trees." Our record extends the known distribution and provides specific habitat data of a currently extant population.

The specimen is lodged in the Western Australian Museum (M13348). A full report on the survey will be published in the Wildlife Research Bulletin.

—A. A. BURBIDGE and N. L. MCKENZIE, W.A. Wildlife Research Centre, Wanneroo.

Incubation Period of the Pied Honeyeater, *Certhionyx variegatus*.—Recently the opportunity occurred to record within very narrow limits, the incubation period of the Pied Honeyeater. At 13.00 hours on August 31, 1975, a completed nest, later identified as that of a Pied Honeyeater, was discovered at a point 61 km north-east of Wubin on the Great Northern Highway.

The nest, empty at the time of its discovery, was located in a multiple fork of a hakea (*Hakea scoparia*), and was composed of fairly firm twigs lined with finer twigs and grasses. It was 72 cm from the ground, measured 9 cm across on the outside and 6 cm internally.

When the area was visited again at 10.00 hours on September 13, the nest contained two eggs, which, judging by the behaviour of the female, appeared to be on the point of hatching. This conclusion proved to be correct, as, when the nest was again visited at 07.15 hours on September 14, one egg had hatched, while a further inspection at 10.15 hours showed that the second egg also had hatched. It was noted that the eggshells had been removed from the vicinity of the nest and the female remained in close attendance throughout the period during which the nest was kept under observation. During the same period the male visited the nest site fleetingly, staying only long enough to enable a definite identification to be made.

Therefore, in a period 13 days 21 hours two eggs had been laid and hatched, which on the assumption that they were laid on two consecutive days and that brooding commenced immediately thereafter, indicated an incubation period of not more than 12 days 21 hours.

It may be worth adding, however, that the nesting proved unsuccessful, as on a visit to the area a week later, on September 20, the young had disappeared and the nest itself had been dislodged from the position in which it had been built. There was nothing to indicate the cause of the destruction.

—A. FEWSTER and M. T. MILLARD

First Record of the Kerguelen Diving-Petrel in Australia.—On 20 March, 1974 Mr. N. Whiteford found a recently dead seabird on Middleton Beach, near Albany, Western Australia, and gave it to Mr. H. O. Webster for identification. Realising that it was the first record of a diving-petrel for this State, Mr. Webster kindly donated the specimen to the Western Australian Museum where it was prepared into a study-skin (registered number A12761) and identified as *Pelecanoides exsul* Salvin.

Details of specimen: weight, total length and wing-span in flesh, 120 g, 212 mm and 419 mm respectively; exposed culmen 17, entire culmen 27, width of bill at base 9.3, wing 124.5, tail 45, tarsus 25, middle toe and claw 33; skull fully ossified; feet blue; wings and entire upper surface glossy black. Length of wing and tail arc greater than the ranges (118-121.5 and 35-40.5) given for *P. exsul* by R. C. Murphy and F. Harper (A review of the diving petrels, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 44, 1921: 495-554). In most other respects it agrees well with our specimen (A6673) from Heard Island, a female *exsul* that was brooding an egg on 3 December 1949.

The combination of large size, broad bill with moderately converging sides (rather than narrow bill with almost parallel sides) and broad, unbroken grey band across throat and foreneck separates *P. exsul* from all subspecies of the Common Diving-petrel (*P. urinatrix*). *P. exsul* nests on